

AS EUROPEANS SEE AGENCY

Why the Big Fuss Over CIA's Work?

BY DAVID LAWRENCE

EN ROUTE FROM EUROPE—They know a lot more in Western Europe about intelligence work than we do in America. This is because they have been at it longer.

Hence, it was rather disquieting to have some of the European officials who are most experienced in intelligence activities say privately that they are worried about the future of the Central Intelligence Agency, which up to now has been a bulwark of strength in its co-operation with European governments.

Oddly enough, they wonder how so much got into print about the CIA and why American officials haven't learned that judgment of intelligence work cannot be fairly based on one episode like Cuba.

They suspect that inexperience and possibly a desire by other agencies in Washington to shift the blame led to the controversy over the future functioning of the CIA.

Perhaps one of the most skillful of the European intelligence



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executives told this writer the other day that every intelligence organization can be improved, but that, in trying to make this type of setup conform to other government units, there is danger of impairing its usefulness.

HE ASKED this correspondent, for instance, what was going to be done with all the information locked up in the mind of Allen Dulles when he "retires" at the end of this year. Rightly or wrongly, intelligence experts do not favor putting everything down on paper. It involves too many risks.

Hence, they say a top intelligence man should be utilized as long as he is able to function.

About 30 years ago, when this writer first began to talk to intelligence officials in Europe, he found them predicting that the United States might, in the course of 25 years or so, achieve an effective operation.

TODAY some of the higher level men in foreign governments express admiration for the progress that has been made by the United States in the last 20 years. In fact, they speak in terms of admiration for the achievements of Allen Dulles.

Some of these specialists say reforms are long overdue in all intelligence activity—especially in relation to the public's understanding of the work.

Most of the intelligence folks with whom this writer talked in Europe are curious about what happened in Cuba as far as the CIA was concerned.

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